

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Original) An apparatus for producing an ice container using ice powders, comprising:

an ice grinding unit for grinding an ice mass into ice powders;

a freezer positioned at one side of the ice grinding unit for maintaining the ice grinding unit in a proper temperature to prevent the ice powders from being molten;

an ice container forming unit installed in the freezer for receiving and compressing the ice powders to form the ice containers;

a guide coupled to the ice container forming unit for guiding movement of the ice container forming unit by a given distance;

a turntable rotatably installed in the freezer, the ice container compressed by the ice container forming unit moved by the guide being laid thereon; and

a plurality of cold air distributors installed at an outside of the turntable for blasting cold air onto a surface of the ice container to freeze the surface of the ice container.

2. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the ice grinding unit includes a plurality of molds for forming an exterior surface of the ice container, the molds **being reciprocatingly reciprocately** moved in such a manner that one side of the one mold is contacted and detached from one side of **an opposing the other** mold, and having a groove of a shape corresponding to the exterior surface of the ice container;

an upper mold disposed over the **plurality of exterior** forming molds for compressing the ice powders introduced into an opening formed by the **plurality of exterior**-forming molds, the upper mold **being reciprocatingly reciprocately** moved into the opening; and

a lower mold for blocking a bottom of the opening formed by the plurality of exterior forming molds contacted to each other, the lower mold being reciprocatingly ~~be reciprocately~~ moved toward the bottom of the opening.

3. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein means is provided for supplying steam heat to ~~by~~ a desired temperature ~~is supplied~~ to and discharged from the plurality of exterior forming molds, the upper and lower molds, and the turntable, respectively.

4. (Currently Amended) The apparatus as claimed in claim 2, wherein at least one of the opposing ~~the respective exterior~~ forming molds is provided at one side thereof with a plurality of water discharge openings ~~small holes~~.

5. (Original) The apparatus as claimed in claim 1, wherein the freezer includes a plurality of solution injectors for injecting a solution onto a surface of the compressed ice container rotated by the turntable.

6. (Currently Amended) A method for producing an ice container using ice powders, comprising the steps of:

grinding an ice mass into the ice powders;

reciprocatingly ~~reciprocately~~ moving into contact exterior forming molds having a groove for accommodating the ice powders introduced from an ice grinding unit;

reciprocatingly ~~reciprocately~~ blocking a bottom of an opening formed by the grooves of the contacted exterior forming molds.

Introducing the ice powders ground by the ice grinding unit into said the opening ~~formed by the ice grinding unit~~;

reciprocatingly ~~reciprocately~~ moving an ~~the~~ upper mold to compress the ice powders, thereby forming the ice container;

if the ice container is formed, detaching the upper and lower molds from the ice container;

guiding the exterior forming molds, in which the ice container is disposed, along a guide, laying the **exterior forming** molds on an upper surface of the turntable, and detaching the ice container from the exterior forming molds; and

supplying a cold blast generated from a cold air distributor onto a surface of the ice container rotated on the turntable.

7. (Original) The method as claimed in claim 6, further comprising the step of injecting a solution from a solution injector onto a surface of the ice containers.